ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- How did the Songhai Empire rise to power?
- Who played leading roles in the rising of the Songhai Empire?
- What events led to the ending of the Songhai Empire?
- Why is it important to check the source of a piece of information before using it?
- Does age determine your ability to have an impact on your community?

PROCEDURES:
- **Assignment #1** Read the source information and the text for Assignment 1
  - Create a timeline for the Songhai empire and answer the questions.
  - **Assignment #2** Read the source information and the text for Assignment 2.
  - On your own paper answer the writing prompts given using the information from the text.

WORK TO BE RETURNED:
- Timeline of the Songhai Empire and answers to questions
- Primary source/Journal Entry for Week 6

RESOURCES:
- Writing prompt for Diary/Journal Entry #6;
- Reading - Rise and Fall of the Songhai Empire

TIME ALLOCATED:
- 2 (30) minute Assignments

Assignment #1
Directions: Read the following text. Complete the timeline activity highlighting the main events in the rise and fall of the Songhai Empire. Then answer the questions that follow in complete sentences on your own paper.

Source Information: This text was written by Al-Bakir, a famous Arab scholar, historian, and geographer, who traveled all over North Africa and studied the history of African Kingdoms at many famous universities. His information was taken from multiple historical maps and texts he found at these accredited university libraries.

The Rise and Fall of the Songhai Kingdom

Expansion during the rule of Sonni ʿAlī
In the 1400s, the Songhai kingdom only consisted of Gao and a small surrounding area. When Sonni ʿAlī rose to the seat of power in 1464, he was determined to expand the land area he controlled. He got his chance in 1468 when the leaders of Timbuktu, a city to the west of Gao, asked for his help. The city had been occupied by a people called the Tuareg, and it needed the Songhai king to drive them away. Sonni ʿAlī was able to free the city from the Tuareg, but only to take control of it for himself. Sonni ʿAlī then attacked the wealthy trading city of Djenné, which surrendered to him in 1473. Soon, more territories fell to Sonni ʿAlī’s armies and a large and mighty empire was born.

Muḥammad I Askia
After the death of Sonni ʿAlī, the Muslim rebel Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr Ture seized power in 1493. Under Muḥammad's rule, the Songhai kingdom became an Islamic state with Arabic as the official written language. Muḥammad took the title of Askia, which became both the name of the dynasty he founded and the name of its leaders. Muḥammad set up an efficient administration of the regions conquered by Sonni ʿAlī. He began by dividing Songhai into provinces and placed each under a governor. Muḥammad set up a well-organized system of taxation. This is when a government collects money from its citizens to pay for cities, armies, and services. He also introduced many new rules for activities such as agriculture and fishing.

The spread of Islam was one key part of this influence. In late 1496, Mohammed undertook the hajj to Mecca. A hajj is the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca that takes place in the last month of the year, and that all Muslims are expected to make at least once during their lifetime. In Egypt, the Abbāsid caliph bestowed upon Mohammed the title caliph of the
Blacks. Mohammed's hajj was a key to the fortunes of Islam in West Africa. Muslim scholars went into areas they would not have been able to penetrate without the Gao ruler's support. And for several centuries to come, the small African states would look to the Islamic empire of Songhai as a model to imitate. The end of Muḥammad's reign was tragic, however. Little by little his dream of establishing a vast Islamic region in West Africa evaporated.

Even during Muḥammad's lifetime, his children were fighting for control of the empire. In 1528 Musa, his eldest son, killed Muḥammad's top general and then seized the throne from his father. Musa himself was assassinated (killed) by one of his own brothers three years later. Meanwhile, Askia Muḥammad was banished to a remote island "infested with mosquitoes and toads." He remained there from 1528-1537, powerless to stop the murderous schemes of his children over the territory of Songhai. In 1537, a third ruler, Askia Ismaïl who was also Muḥammad's son, brought his father back to Gao. Muḥammad died one year later. He was buried in Gao, and his tomb, which is still standing, later became one of the holiest Islamic religious sites in all of West Africa.

Decline and a new era

Despite the endless struggles for power, Songhai remained largely wealthy and peaceful for decades. That peace was shattered in 1591, when Moroccan forces armed with guns advanced into the Songhai empire. Morocco, which is now a country, was a region in the north of Africa intent on taking over the gold and salt trade. Although the Songhai troops were far more numerous, they were outmatched and easily defeated. The empire then fell under Moroccan rule for some time. Once the Moroccans gave up their control of the region, the once-mighty empire splintered into dozens of small kingdoms.

Timeline Directions: Use the information above to create a timeline of the rise and fall of the Songhai Empire. Place the letter of the correct date in front of the statement according to when it happened. Example: Put an A on the line in front of the statement that tells what happened in the year 1464.

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1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620

1468 1496 1528 to 1537 1591

E.  F.  G.  H.

______ 1. Musa, Muḥammad's eldest son, killed Muḥammad's top general and then seized the throne from his father.

______ 2. Moroccan forces armed with guns advanced into the Songhai empire and took it over. This was the beginning of the end of the Songhai kingdom.

______ 3. After the death of Sonni ʿAlī, the Muslim rebel Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr Ture seized power.

______ 4. A third ruler, Askia Ismaïl who was also Muḥammad's son, brought his father back to Gao, where he died one year later.

______ 5. Mohammed undertook the hajj to Mecca which became a key to accessing the fortunes of Islam in West Africa.

______ 6. Sonni ʿAlī was able to free the city of Timbuktu from the Tuareg, but only to take control of it for himself.

______ 7. Askia Muhammad was banished to a remote island where he remained for 9 years.

______ A. 8. Sonni ʿAlī rose to the seat of power.
Sourcing Question: Using the sourcing information for the text above, explain whether this would or would not be considered a credible source. Use 2-3 pieces of evidence from the sourcing information to support your answer in a paragraph. Write your answer in the space below.

Questions: Answer the following questions on your own paper, in complete sentences.

1. What was Sonni Ali determined to do and how did he go about getting what he wanted?
2. Who had occupied Songhai before Sonni Ali came into power?
3. Did Sonni Ali do what leaders of Timbuktu asked him to do? How do you know? Cite the text evidence to prove your answer.
4. Who took over after Sonni Ali died?
5. How did the empire change under Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr Ture’s reign?
6. Who took over the Songhai empire and describe the advantage they had.
7. What influence did Islam have on the Songhai empire?
8. Why was the end of Muhammad’s reign tragic. Cite three examples to prove it was tragic.
9. Just like the other empires Songhai fell. Describe what happened to Songhai.

Assignment #2

Creating a Primary Source Document

Remember over the next few weeks, you will be asked to write a diary/journal entry once a week about “Life during the Great Pandemic of 2020.” Read the article below and then respond to the prompt and sourcing questions on your own paper.
Fifteen-year-old Shaivi Shah donated more than 150 hygiene kits to the homeless.

By Lauren Lee, CNN

The teenager and her parents made the purchases and now it was time to pack them up. Shaivi Shah, 15, recruited her fellow Tesoro High School honor society members to assemble kits of hand sanitizer, antibacterial soap, lotion and reusable masks for distribution to help people experiencing homelessness in the middle of a pandemic. "They don't have necessities right now that are crucial to remain clean and stay germ-free," Shaivi told CNN. California Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent speech about the state's homeless problem sparked her idea. So far, the efforts of the passionate student has led to the delivery of more than 150 low-cost sanitation kits to three Los Angeles shelters. A vulnerable population according to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, on any given day, more than 150,000 Californians are living in homelessness -- the most of any US state. Shaivi feared they might be forgotten in this time of social distancing. "A lot of people are just focusing on themselves and their families," she said. The altruistic teen from Rancho Santa Margarita started a GoFundMe account to raise funds to expand her program throughout California and the US. "These people that are living on the streets, they have no protection, so even a small amount could help." A call to service, Shah hopes that her actions will encourage others to step in to help in their own ways during the pandemic. "It's important for people to step in and just do whatever they can, even if it helps just one person." Shah is no stranger to community service. Last year, she raised thousands of dollars for a homeless shelter through a dance recital. Her duty to help people experiencing homelessness comes from a feeling of gratitude. "Imagine yourself in their shoes, without a house, without clothes, without any sanitation," she says. "That'll make you be grateful for what you have, and possibly donate and do something good for the other people."

Read the source information for the article above about the California teen who created sanitary kits for the homeless. Use the information you read to help you answer the following prompts for your week 6 journal and the sourcing question. Answer both of these on your own sheet of paper.

1) **PROMPT:** In the reading a young teenager decided to create sanitary kits for the homeless near her to make a positive impact in her community. Think about a need in your community that has arisen during this pandemic. What could you do to make a positive impact in your community or for your family during this time period? Explain the need, what your plan would be to address this need, and how you will pay for your project. Be thoughtful and reflective. It should take you at least 2-3 paragraphs to address all parts of this prompt. Answer on your own sheet of paper.

2) **SOURCING:** Using the sourcing information for this article, determine whether this document is credible or not credible. Write your claim and use 2-3 pieces of evidence from the sourcing information to support your answer. Answer on your own piece of paper.